



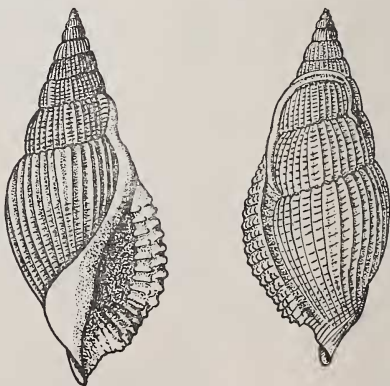
LEE

## To Memorize Lee

By

TOM IREDALE

A beautiful little shell that has not been yet included in the Marine Fauna of Queensland may be called *Varicospira lee* as a slight memorial to our lost colleague, the late Mrs. Lee Woolacott. Her first name was Leone but she endeared herself to all the shell-collecting communion under the pleasing abbreviation of Lee. I have been arranging the Strombs and Lee was most interested as she had been studying this puzzling group for some time. She showed me some of her treasures for advice and allowed me to examine her collection. In it I found a series of this shell which was in the Australian Museum from Torres Straits and Darwin without official record. I had already had a figure drawn by Mr. C. F. Laseron from an Australian shell but Mrs. Woolacott's series confirmed the locality as they had come from southern New Guinea just across the water. I had selected Lee's name for this shell, when I was very shocked to hear of the very sudden death of this grand lady. For years she had been a constant attendant at the Australian Museum, investigating problems surrounding her own specimens and assisting in the arrangement and determination of shells sent in. She was always so alive, so enthusiastic, and so untiring, full of news, enquiries and hopes, that it will be a long time before we become accustomed to her absence. It is still very disturbing to miss her happy face on Mondays, her usual day for appearance. Her energy as a collector was super-normal, she was always thinking of new places to visit, and new shells to criticize. She was very painstaking in her studies, probing every record, and verifying every item to the utmost detail. The formation of the "Marine Zoologist" as a means of communication for the work of the members of the Marine Section of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, which had been such a success, was primarily due to her persistence, and this supplement to our Proceedings will be always a memorial to her enthusiasm; that this is recognized by the members will be seen in the fact that this number is dedicated to her memory.



*Varicospira lee* Iredale.

Charles Laseron del.

## Family STROMBIDAE.

Genus VARICOSPIRA Eames, 1951.

*Varicospira lee*, sp. nov.

Shell small, elegantly pointed oval, spire about equal to the aperture, whorls seven adult plus two nepionic, slightly convex, apex acute, spire conical, tri-varicose, aperture small pointed oval, very strongly variced externally with heavily reinforced columella anteriorly, canaliculate at each end. Dead shell dirty brownish-white; living (Mrs. Woolacott's specimen) a beautiful honey brown, the last whorl showing three darker bands, more noticeable on the outer varix. The apex consists of two glassy whorls, the succeeding whorls being sculptured by narrow elevated longitudinal ribs with the broadish intervals crossed by close incised lines which do not cut the longitudinals, but produce a superficial cancellation. On the face of the body-whorl thirteen ribs may be counted while the linear incisions vary about twenty. The varices are normally three, but these are not all pronounced, sometimes only one or two being marked, on each whorl. Two extraordinary features characterize the shell, both concerning the aperture and the figures will show these better than any description: first, the columella which is heavily reinforced and reflected, more boldly towards the anterior canal, where it forms a large pad and is produced and reverted so that it is not clearly visible in the figures. Anteriorly it is laid on thickly on the preceding whorls travelling upwards two whorls, then abruptly crossing the suture halfway and as abruptly descending more than a whorl. As the outer lip has followed this procedure, an open channel appears all the way. The outer lip is most complexly varicose, very broad, showing strong ridges—almost twofold inside the aperture, while internally the ridges are even stronger and cut by deep incisions, practically following the body-whorl sculpture but separated from it by a deep gutter. There is a situation in the form of the outer lip towards the anterior canal separated by a slight projection, the canal itself long and narrow. Altogether it is a very remarkable little shell. Length, 34 mm., breadth 12 mm., interior of aperture about 10 mm. by 4 mm. Type locality, Torres Straits, North Queensland. Also Darwin, North Australia, and New Guinea (Mrs. Woolacott's Collection). The name *Varicospira* was proposed by Eames (Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. Lond. 236 B, 2, 70, 1951) for the fossil *Strombus cancellatus* Lamarck.

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## A New Gudgeon from the New Hebrides

(Pisces Gobiomoridae).

By GILBERT P. WHITLEY, F.R.Z.S.

(Contribution from the Australian Museum.)

Lee Woolacott, one of the founders of this "Marine Zoologist," loved beautiful things: shells; corals, small fishes and other marine life gave her endless pleasure both in the field and in collections.

It seems fitting therefore for a very beautiful little marine gudgeon to be named in her memory. It has been in the Australian Museum collection for more than forty years unidentified and unique, no other specimen having come to hand.

It belongs to the genus *Eviota* Jenkins, 1903, of which some authors consider *Trimma* Jordan and Seale, 1906, to be a synonym or a subgenus.